



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

For Immediate Release

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Congressman Shuler's Sandburg Bill Approved by Natural Resources Committee

Next Step is Vote before the House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. – Representative Heath Shuler's bill to allow for the expansion of the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site successfully passed the Natural Resources Committee this afternoon.

Rep. Shuler's bill, HR 1100, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire up to 115 acres of land contiguous to the current Sandburg Home Historic Site. The land can be acquired by donation or through willing sale. The bill also allows for the acquisition of up to five acres for a visitor center and increased parking area.

"The Sandburg home is an important part of both our heritage and our economy in Western North Carolina. It is imperative that we protect the integrity of the Sandburg Home Site so future generations can fully appreciate its tremendous natural beauty. Expanding this site will also allow Western North Carolina to attract more tourists and further drive our economy," said Rep. Shuler. "I am extremely pleased that my bill has passed out of committee, and I look forward to quick action before the entire House of Representatives."

Henderson County Commissioner Chuck McGrady testified in favor of the bill during a Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands hearing on April 17th.

McGrady told the Subcommittee, "If these lands were to be subdivided and developed, all agree the historic values of the site and the visitor experience associated with the site would be greatly compromised."

Companion legislation to Rep. Shuler's bill has been introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senator Elizabeth Dole (R-NC).

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